

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00787 260418Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DLOS-09 SS-15 SP-02
SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 L-03
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O R 260210Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3305
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SUVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0787

TOKYO FOR RFO

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, PP
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY - E/C
OFFICER DISCUSSIONS WITH PAT LAVENDER

1. E/C OFFICER HELD DISCUSSIONS THURSDAY WITH PAT LAVENDER,
ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISOR, DFAT, AND PRINCIPAL DELEGATE OF
PNG TO THE LAST SUVA MEETING. LAVENDER CHARACTERIZED SUVA
MEETING AS CONFUSED BUT USEFUL WITH ONLY PNG, WESTERN SAMOA
AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE SOLOMON ISLANDS UNDERSTANDING
INITIALLY THE U.S. POSITION.

2. LAVENDER PUT FORWARD CURRENT PNG THINKING WITH REGARD
TO SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION. HE
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PROPOSED AN EXCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION - LIMITED TO FORUM
STATES AND POSSIBLY TTPI - WHOSE CONCERN WOULD BE TO
ADVISE MEMBER STATES ON MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL SPECIES
AND TO FORMULATE A JOINT POSITION RELATIVE TO DISTANT
FISHING NATIONS WITH REGARD TO MIGRATORY SPECIES.
ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH AN ORGANIZATION WOULD BE A HIGHLY
MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHOSE MEMBERSHIP

WOULD CONSIST OF ANY INTERESTED STATE. HE STATED THAT THIS WOULD BE A FIRST STEP TOWARDS MEETING U.S. DOMESTIC LAW. APPARENTLY, THIS IS THE PROPOSAL PNG FLOATED AT THE LAST SUVA MEETING.

3. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY, E/C OFFICER PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL TO CREATE THREE SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS. THE FIRST WOULD BE A REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY MADE UP OF FORUM MEMBERS AND THE FREE ASSOCIATED STATES OF TTPI. IT WOULD CLAIM COASTAL STATE SOVEREIGNTY OF MIRCARTORY SPECIES AND WOULD SERVE AS A COORDINATING BODY TO DEVELOP A UNIFIED COASTAL STATE POSITION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES VIS-A-VIS DISTANT FISHING NATIONS. THE SECOND WOULD BE A SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO CONSERVATION MATTERS. MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED NATIONS. THE THIRD ORGANIZATION WOULD BE ONE THAT ALLOWED FOR THE REGULATION OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF U.S. DOMESTIC LAW. LAVENDER WAS ASKED IF PNG WOULD BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AND WOULD BE SIGNATORY TO ALL THREE ORGANIZATIONS. HE REPLIED THAT THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT PNG WANTED AND THAT PETER WILSON WAS WORKING ON A SIMILAR PROPOSAL AT THE MOMENT.

4. LAVENDER STRESSED THAT PNG HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO WHAT
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HE CALLED AN ARTICLE 64 ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD MEET U.S. DOMESTIC LAW REQUIREMENTS AND NOT REQUIRE THE U.S. TO AGREE TO COASTAL STATE SOVEREIGNTY. PNG'S MAIN INTEREST IS TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT COULD COORDINATE THE NEGOTIATING POSITION OF THE COASTAL STATES AND COULD PROTECT THESE STATES POSITION AT THE LOS CONFERENCE.

5. LAVENDER STATED THAT PNG EXPECTED THAT ITS PROPOSED HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD DEVELOP INTO AN ARTICLE 64 ORGANIZATION AND THAT THE SPEED AT WHICH IT DEVELOPED WOULD ONLY BE LIMITED BY THE SPEED OF THE U.S. INITIATIVE.

6. LAVENDER THOUGHT THAT NEXT MEETING IN JUNE WAS PROBABLY COMING TOO SOON BUT THOUGHT THAT IF THE U.S. AND PNG COULD GET TOGETHER ON PRINCIPLES THEN AN AGREEMENT MIGHT BE REACHED. HE SUGGESTED A MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND PNG AND PERHAPS WESTERN SAMOA AND NEW ZEALAND DELEGATIONS JUST PRIOR TO THE JUNE SAVA MEETINGS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL.

7. LAVENDER ALSO SAID THAT ANY COMMENTS THE U.S. MIGHT HAVE ON PNG'S CURRENT THINKING WOULD BE VERY MUCH

APPRECIATED.

8. POSTSCRIPT: E/C OFFICER JUST RECEIVED
MESSAGE FROM PAT LAVENDER THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED PREVIOUS
MEETING WITH DABB AND WILSON. THEY ARE ALL VERY ENTHU-
SIASTIC ABOUT WORKING OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH U.S. PRIOR
TO FORTHCOMING MEETING AND WOULD LIKE TO CONDUCT
INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS HERE IN PORT MORESBY BETWEEN
THEMSELVES AND EMB STAFF ASAP. RALPH KAREPA, ACTING
SECRETARY, DFAT, WILL BE SENDING A LETTER OUTLINING
PNG'S POSITION TO EMB ON MONDAY.
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